

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 (Canceled).

26. (New) A machine for producing a tubular product by helical winding and gluing of strips of web material, comprising a mandrel, a winding member constructed and arranged to helically wind in an overlapping and staggered manner at least two strips of web material around said mandrel to form a tubular product, at least one pressure member cooperating with said mandrel and, in combination with said winding member, is disposed along a path of the tubular product being formed on said mandrel, wherein pressure exerted by said pressure member promotes adhesion of the strips forming the tubular product.

27. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 26, wherein said winding member comprises a belt forming a helical turn about the mandrel and about the strips being wound around the mandrel.

28. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 26 or 27, wherein said at least one pressure member comprises at least one wheel and an actuator to stress the at least one wheel and the mandrel against each other.

29. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 28, wherein said at least one wheel is positioned to act on an outer

surface of the tubular product at a level of an edge line of adjacent turns of an outermost strip of web material forming the tubular product.

30. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 29, wherein said wheel includes a circular edge disposed at an inclination, with respect to an axis of the mandrel, essentially equal to an inclination of a helical winding of said at least two strips of web material.

31. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 30, wherein the circular edge of said wheel has a series of protuberances.

32. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 31, wherein said protuberances comprise teeth.

33. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 30, wherein inclination of an axis of rotation of the wheel is adjustable with respect to the axis of the mandrel.

34. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 28, wherein said at least one wheel is carried by a support arranged to slide in a sleeve and torsionally constrained to said sleeve.

35. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 34, wherein said sleeve is arranged to be locked in an angularly adjustable position with respect to a fixed load-bearing structure.

36. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 35, wherein said sleeve comprises a flange with slotted holes to lock said sleeve in said angularly adjustable position.

37. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 26, wherein said at least one pressure member comprises at least one supporting element for said mandrel.

38. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 37, wherein said at least one pressure member comprises two angularly staggered supporting elements arranged to provide the mandrel with a reaction force to stress applied by said at least one wheel.

39. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 38, wherein contact points between said at least one wheel and the tubular product being formed on the mandrel and between said at least one supporting element and said tubular product lie approximately on a plane orthogonal to an axis of the mandrel.

40. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 26 or 27, wherein said pressure member comprises two wheels acting on the tubular product being formed around said mandrel.

41. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 40, wherein said two wheels are arranged to act on an outer surface of the tubular product, a first wheel of said two wheels at a level of a joining line of adjacent turns formed by an

outermost strip of web material and a second wheel of said two wheels at a level of a joining line of adjacent turns formed by an innermost strip of web material.

42. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 40, wherein said two wheels are disposed staggered by about 180° around an axis of the mandrel and in a position wherein a straight line uniting contact points of the two wheels with the tubular product being formed on the mandrel is approximately orthogonal to the axis of the mandrel.

43. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 28, wherein said at least one wheel is motorized.

44. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 26, wherein said pressure member is positioned downstream of the winding member.

45. (New) The machine as claimed in claim 26, wherein said pressure member is positioned upstream of the winding member.

46. (New) A method for producing a tubular product, comprising winding by a winding member at least a first strip and a second strip of web material staggered from each other around a winding mandrel to form a tubular product, the first strip and the second strip being glued to each other; applying pressure by a pressure member arranged along said mandrel to an outer surface of the tubular product

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being formed around said mandrel along a path of the tubular product being formed around said mandrel to stabilize glue adhesion between said first strip and said second strip.

47. (New) The method as claimed in claim 46, wherein said pressure is applied along an edge of the strip forming adjacent turns that provide an outermost layer of said tubular product.

48. (New) The method as claimed in claim 46 or 47, wherein said pressure is applied to the outer surface of the tubular product at a level of an edge of the strip of web material forming an inner layer of the tubular product.

49. (New) The method as claimed in claim 46, wherein said pressure is applied downstream of the winding member.

50. (New) The method as claimed in claim 46, wherein said pressure is applied upstream of the winding member.